

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 ACDA-05 /075 W

----- 036014

P 011100Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8773

INFO CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 0016

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJ: KC BEGIN DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE ON JANUARY 1

1. KC BEGAN EXPECTED DRY SEASON CAMPAIGN IN THE FIRST TWO HOURS OF THE NEW YEAR WITH SIMULTANEOUS ATTACKS ON THE NORTHWEST, NORTHEAST, EAST AND SOUTHEAST APPROACHES TO PHNOM PENH, AS WELL AS ALONG THE MEKONG SOUTH OF THE CITY ON HIGHWAY 1. ELSEWHERE THE COUNTRY REMAINED FAIRLY QUIET.

2. SUMMARIZING THE SITUATION AT 1700 LOCALLY JANUARY 1, THE ENEMY HAD PUT STRONG PRESSURE ON THE 7TH DIVISION NORTHWEST AREA, AND HAD CUT HIGHWAY 5 SEVERAL KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE CITY, MOVING IN CLOSE ENOUGH TO SHELL THE POL STORAGE FARM WITH MORTAR FIRE. TO THE NORTHEAST ALONG HIGHWAY 61, OF THE 13 BRIDGES BETWEEN PHNOM PENH AND MOUK KAMPOUL, NUMBERS 3, 4 AND 9 WERE IN ENEMY HANDS AND THE REMAINDER ARE UNDER ENEMY PRESSURE.

3. THE ENEMY SEIZED A STRETCH OF THE MEKONG EAST BANK DIRECTLY OPPOSITE PHNOM PENH, HOLDING NEARLY FOUR KILOMETERS OF HIGHWAY  
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151, FROM WHICH ALL THE POPULATION WAS TAKEN AWAY. FANK IS IN

PROCESS OF LANDING TWO PARA BATTALIONS TO RETAKE THIS AREA AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. AT 0130 TWO 107 ROCKETS LANDED IN AREA OF ROYAL PALACE, COMING FROM EAST BANK, WITH NO CASUALTIES.

4. TO THE SOUTHEAST THE ENEMY HOLDS A 3 TO 4 KILOMETER STRETCH OF HIGHWAY 1 ON THE WEST BANK OPPOSITE THE EAST BANK FIRE BASE OF DEI DOH, WHICH IS ALSO AT THE NARROWEST PORTION OF THE MEKONG BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE BORDER.

5. TO THE SOUTHWEST THE ENEMY ATTACKED AREAS NORTH AND SOUTH OF ROUTE 4 AND FOR THE MOMENT HAVE INTERDICTED PASSAGE ON THAT HIGHWAY FOR ONE TO TWO KILOMETERS IN AN AREA 7 OR 8 MILES SOUTHWEST OF THE CITY. THE FANK 3RD DIVISION COMMANDER HAS TAKEN FULL OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE 23RD BRIGADE AREA NORTH OF THE HIGHWAY WHICH HAS BEEN UNDER HEAVY ENEMY PRESSURE. LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES HAVE BEEN OBSERVED IN AREA HEADING TOWARDS CITY.

6. IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO BE ABLE DETERMINE SIZE, INTENSITY AND MAJOR TARGETS OF ENEMY ATTACK. SOME OF THESE EFFORTS MAY BE MOSTLY PROBES OR DIVERSIONARY EFFORTS TO MASK MORE SERIOUS INTENTIONS. NUMBER OF TROOPS COMMITTED DOES NOT AS YET APPEAR TOO LARGE, INDICATING ENEMY RETAINS CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY IN WHEN AND WHERE TO COMMIT MORE FORCES. CASUALTY FIGURES NOT YET AVAILABLE, BUT NOT BELIEVED SIGNIFICANT SO FAR, FRIENDLY LOSSES HAVE BEEN IN TERMS OF TERRITORY FOR THE MOST PART. FANK AIR AND NAVAL SUPPORT HAS BEEN GOOD. WE SHOULD HAVE A CLEARER PICTURE IN ANOTHER 12 TO 24 HOURS OF DIRECTION THIS CAMPAIGN SEEMS LIKELY TO TAKE.  
DEAN

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## Message Attributes

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